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Coplon Case Wiped Off U.S. Docket

The Justice Department cleared its docket yesterday of an old wiretapping case by moving to dismiss indictments against Judith Coplon, who twice was convicted of spying for the Soviet Union.

Separate motions were filed in Federal courts here and in New York dropping the 18-year-old charges against the one-time Justice Department employe, now the wife of attorney Albert H. Sokolov, who handled her appeals.

Miss Coplon's conviction in Washington was overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals because Federal agents tapped her telephone conversations with her attorney. The 2d U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a New York conviction because agents seized most of the evidence against her without a warrant. She was never retried.

The Coplon wiretapping decision has been cited frequently in the current legal dispute over wiretapping and eavesdropping by Federal agents, especially in the cases involving alleged invasions of lawyer-client confidentiality.